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INTRA-PLANT COMMUNICATIONS

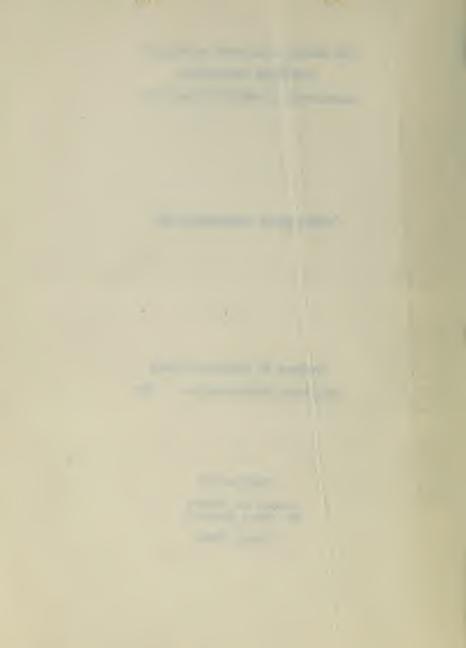
Seminar in Comptrollership

Business Administration - 265

Prepared by

Elbert D. Graves Lt. Col., U.S.M.C.

8 May, 1953.



PREFACE

The subject of communications is too broad and far too complex to receive more than cursory treatment in a report of this type. Nevertheless, it is a subject which in this modern day and age practically demands attention or one could say demands practical attention. As a general observation, I believe that it would be a truthful statement that those enterprises which have recognized the value of and fostered good communication practices and principles are more stable and prosperous than those which have not. Prosperity, in this instance, may not necessarily mean the greatest monetary return per dollar invested but would include the intangible benefits as well. Goodwill of the community, employee loyalty toward management, a "healthy" climate surrounding the plant in all its affairs with workers, supervisors, stockholders, customers, and the community and public at large are all aspects of the intangibleness of the prosperity conveyed in the previous sentence.

It is, I believe, necessary in a report of this type to make reference to other aspects of industry such as organization, administration, etc. in order to present the aspects of communication in their proper perspective. It has, however, been my intention to give pianissimo treatment to those other aspects and furnish tenor to communications. The interactions of all the aspects produce a final result, good or bad, in industry (and other activities as well) and the type and character of communications, as a whole system or a part of a system, make a significant contribution toward the final result.

As the title suggests, this report primarily concerns itself with intra-plant communications. Communications up, down, and laterally are briefly examined. A few generalizations are advanced herein which are the result of some research and perhaps the result also of certain inductive reasoning processes which, I believe, one must sometimes use when considering communications.

Elbert D. Graves Lt. Col., U.S.M.C.

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Albert D. Greens

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The importance of communications in modern industry, indeed in all other forms of contemporary activity, can not be too strongly emphasized. Communications, in its literal sense, is essential in almost every undertaking. In order to provide a framework or easel upon which to depict the general character of communications as applied within this report, it is appropriate to analyze briefly the meaning of the word in its dictionary sense and also the derivation of the English word.

Communication - The act or fact of communicating; transmission; esp., the imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing, or signs; intercourse by speech, writing, etc.; also, that which is communicated or imparted; a document or message imparting views, information, etc.; also, intercourse in general; also, passage, opportunity of passage, or a means of passage, between places, etc...l

Communicate - to give to another as a partaker; impart; transmit; also, to have interchange of thoughts; hold communication; also, to have or form a connecting passage.²

The immediate derivation of the English word, communicate, is from the Latin "communicatus", a past participle of "communicatus" has two parts. The prefix "com" meaning "with" and "munis" meaning "bound". "Communis" is the Latin word from which the English word "common" is derived. The word "common", of course, means

¹ The New Century Dictionary, (D. Appleton - Century Co: N.Y. & London), Vol. I, 1948, p. 292.

²Ibid.

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True new Compacts at actionary, (b. Armieton - Contary Co. R.T. & Landon), Vol. 7, 1940, y. 242.

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something belonging equally to two or more (underlining supplied) or all in question.

Latin is itself a derived language having its main roots in that common ground of languages known by scholars as INDO-EUROPEAN. This area, between India and Europe, known now as the Middle East is the area of origin of nearly all modern languages. Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Sanskrit, etc. apparently had a common denominator in this area which was the cradle of civilization. The search for this basic language is still pursued. From here it, the common denominator, spread in all directions being transmitted by persons on land as sea travel was not yet in vogue, and, to the westward, circling the Mediterranean Sea. These peoples in their travels and migrations and in the process of populating the globe and establishing new communities met different natural environments. Their environments seemed to affect their language giving rise to new dialects and changing forms of speech, etc. However, enough of certain elements of the common nother tongue evidently still remained to permit a primitive form of understanding when the people, and languages, had traversed the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean Sea met on the Iberian peninsula, or Spain. The Phoenicians had possibly reached Spain by the Eleventh Century B.C. One of their earlier foundations. Gades (now Cadiz), has been called the oldest town in the world (or in Europe) which has kept a continuity of life and name from its first origin. The Phoenicians evidently were able to communsomething belonging squally his two or once (accessioning surg-

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The reasons why such a seeming phenomenon could occur are the cause of much current and continuous study by scientists. archaeologists, and scholars in divers fields. Nevertheless, one might surmise that one of the main reasons lies in the fact that the written form of communications, whether in words, letters, or symbols, or a combination such as hieroglyphics, has always been subsequent to the oral or spoken form. Indeed, in the days of antiquity, the spoken or directly transmitted form preceded any written form by millenniums. Even today, in our own and contemporary societies, when a voice electronically transmitted may be heard through electronic receivers within one-fifteenth of a second at the point on the earth farthest distant from the point of transmission, the changes, additions, or substitutions in the written form of language usage are several years subsequent to their being accepted in the oral form. "Some sort of writing has existed in the world for about 5 or 6000 years; and we have reason to believe that man learned to make pictures as symbols, and in a crude sense as signatures, fully 20,000 years before that."2

One could pursue this interesting field of study for a lifetime but inasmuch as it is far beyond the scope of this report it is sufficient for its purpose at this time to show the relationship between oral and written communications and their relative precedence in history. One might conclude, therefore,

¹This information obtained, in general, from the Encyclopaedia Brittanica, 1949.

Hogsen, Lancelot T., From Cave Painting to Comic Strip, (Chanticleer Fress: N.Y.), 1949, p. 39.

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that it is not by accident that the dictionary definition of communication places speech ahead of writing as a form of interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information. The entire study of languages, however, points out one of the most basic principles of any concept of communications and is found in the root word "communis" or literally "with-bound." To be bound with or establish a bond requries more than one of something. It requires two or more. Hence, a basic principle of communications is that Communications is a two-way stream. One person, alone, can not communicate! While Adam was alone in the Garden of Eden, he was incapable of earthly communications. It was not until the creation of Eve that communications had its elementary being. The connotation, which should be emphasized in this principle, is on the word "stream" and is that of a continuous flow in both directions. Perhaps, one may at first consider a stream as primarily a downward flow with an occasional eddy or swirl interrupting the sometimes rapid and sometimes meandering course. However, there must be upward as well as downward communications and stream as used in this sense is in keeping with one of its meanings as "move or proceed continuously like a flowing stream, as a procession or a succession of things."1

People comprise organizations and wherever two or more congregate a communications system of some form is an inevitable result. Unless guided by someone outside the congregation, the particular form of this system will depend upon the physical,

¹ New Century Dictionary, op cit., Vol. II, p. 1863.

to polo organic galance and bank logal type and due at it indi -mover to move an anation to some deserve sweets spitacles, may charge of thoughts, of the section of the section of languages, cowerer, pourts out one of the care season, the DEC ... NOT BELL UT ON THE SECOND TO MADE SO THE TO "compare title image of at ". leaved of let tillered in "churend" lied a bond regardes more than one of nearbolow. In remainer to or sore. Menes, a banto principle of annualchiour is had a demunications is a two-way attends, our common, alone, our out upo--1/ and and a state of the war along in the works at the a first the weather and a state of the expecte of ourthly communications. It was not until the ordering -jenges and gallen timbered and fed goodfrolum or dans avi lo ecton, which about he enginelies in the principle, is well-. and remain and it would be established by Jeffe to bee "meets" boom Parhage, one use of Circ consider a overes on administry a worse -were all maintenant ities to the immission or did well bank rives to the control of the control have an energy has annierotanness bravers an lieu an braver so to rese a manufact ris to some of the periodical at more with at proceed continuously the effects strong a recommend of a succession of things. "1

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[&]quot;New Maching Mathematy op 010., Not. II. J. Lewis

biological, social, and psychological factors in the behavior of individuals. A comprehensive examination of the concept of communications should perforce involve an understanding of these other factors. Such an examination is beyond consideration here except in a very limited sense. One of the works of Chester I. Barnardl presents an interesting insight into these various factors and is recommended as excellent build-up material to the point where many other authors commence their discussion of communications.

Barnard, in effect, states that the theory of cooperation and organization (formal organizations result from conscious, deliberate, and purposeful cooperation among men²) rests upon a foundation of communications. The specific ends sought by men are of two kinds, physical and social.

....whatever the specific ends, they serve to satisfy complex motives of persons. Usually a specific end of a physical class involves social consequences not sought. Always a social end involves physical consequences not sought. The actions through which ends are sought are always physical (or physiological); they may also be social. In either case they involve unsought consequences that may give satisfaction or dissatisfaction. Social processes are those in which the action is a part of the system or actions of two or more men. Its most common form is verbal communication.

Communication between persons is an essential element of cooperative systems; it is also the limiting factor in size of simple organizations and, therefore, a dominant factor in the structure of complex organizations....

Fundamentally, communication is necessary to translate purpose into terms of concrete action...what to do and when to do it....The size of unit, therefore, is usually determined by the limitations of effective leadership. These limitations depend upon (a) the complexity of purpose and technological conditions; (b) the difficulty

¹Barnard, Chester I., Functions of the Executive, (Harvard University Press: Cambridge, Mass.), 9th Printing, 1951.

²Ibid., p. 4.

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of the communication process; (c) the extent to which communication is necessary; (d) the complexity of the personal relationships involved, that is, of the social conditions. 1

Barnard elaborates on the complexity of personal relationships as follows:

(d) The complexity of the relationships in any group increases with great rapidity as the number of persons in the group increases. If the simplest possible relationship between two persons is that of "knowing" each other as accomplished by a mutual introduction, then the relational complexity at the very least increases as follows:

Number in	Number of	Increase in Relat	
Group	Relationships	ionships with eac Addition to Group	
2	1		
3	3	2	
4	6	3	
5	10	4	
6	15	5	
7	21	6	
8	28	7	
9	36	8	
10	45	9	
15	105	14	
20	190	19	
50	1225	49	

The relationships between persons in a group will be "active" in a great variety of subgroupings which may constantly change. If A, B, C, D, and E constitute a group of five, then subgroups may be made as follows: ten pairs, ten triplets, five groups of four, one of five. If only one person be added to the group of five, the possible subgroups become: fifteen pairs, twenty triplets, fifteen groups of four, six groups of five, and one of six.2

It is apparent, therefore, that communications has a great impact upon the size of unit of ganizations, and as I mentioned earlier unless guided by someone external to the group, it is obvious that Babel would result. Leadership furnishes this

lIbid., p. 107

²Ibid., p. 108-109

of the demonstration process; [n] and colors to which community is a process of the appropriate the personal rejection of the color personal rejectionships involved, not is, or he color

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prove impict nice the plan of out deposits time, and on I nonstoned wardler unless duided or adulent schemed to bie cross, in the abytone that inded rould result, leadership turnished this guidance and gives formality to the informality of the aggregate relationships of the group. The growth of an organization must necessarily have a corresponding growth in its communications system if it is to function effectively. Plant or industry effectiveness is, thus, closely associated with communications effectiveness which in turn is influenced by plant leadership through the executive or managerial hierarchy. One of the traits or characteristics of a good leader is that he understands people. An understanding of people is an immeasurable contribution to communications effectiveness and in the development of cooperativeness. Communications, we have seen, is the foundation upon which "cooperations" rest.

Four factors contributing to the development of cooperativeness are:1

Establish goals. Direct the activities of others toward a common goal....to work for the team goal.

Set up Lines of Authority. Stick to them. Don't go over your boss's head or by-pass a subordinate. You're asking for trouble, if you do. At times you may have to cut lines of authority to eliminate red tape or meet an emergency. When you do, be sure you explain to all the people involved that this is not your usual practice.

Cooperate down the line - with subordinates. Divide authority. Give advice and help. Don't interfere after a job is assigned. Consult workers. Give them your criticism in private, your praise in public. Listen to complaints. Correct causes of itritation. Extend opportunities. Give credit. Be on the level.

Cooperate up the line - with your superior. Share his responsibility. Seek advice. Welcome criticism. Keep him informed. Consult him on major issues. Don't bother him with petty details. Use proper channels. Play it straight.

Executive Ladder, (McGraw - Hill Book Co., Inc: N.Y. London, Toronto), 1948, p. 126.

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Wien's, George d., and Dare, Norman R., Ellening Co., Archite Lander, (moures - edd each So., Inc. mil., London, Toronsol, 1948, p. 186.

It is easy to see from the above, how essential the communications theme is to this developing of cooperativeness phase in understanding people. Directing, advising, informing, consulting, criticising, praising and listening all involve communications. Likewise, it is easy to see how poor communications can quickly create a shambles out of organizations. To be effective, haphazardness must be eliminated, in other words, the system of communication will follow and be an integral part of the "lines of authority". It is appropriate at this point to consider the primary controlling factors that characterize a communications system. (One should note at this point the striking similarities between these factors and principles of organization. 1)

- 1. Channels of communication should be definitely known.
- Objective authority requires a definite formal channel of communication to every member of an organization.
- 3. The line of communication must be as direct and as short as possible.
- 4. The complete line of communication should usually be used.
- 5. The competence of the persons serving as communications centers, that is, officers, supervisory heads, must be adequate.
- 6. The line of communication should not be interrupted during the time when the organization is to function.
- 7. Every communication should be authenicated.2

It is believed that no further elaboration is needed at this point on the above factors. Further elaboration will be furnished as we deal with them later or, perhaps, separately in the subsequent chapters. Communications are chiefly of two forms, oral and written. The media used in communicating are many and

Chapter III of my term report of 9 January '53 dealt with several organization principles.

²Barnard, op cit., pp. 175-180.

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varied. Different media will obtain, in some cases, different results; therefore, the selection of media is important in getting the results hoped for.

Most good progressive companies have an Industrial Relations Executive who lives daily with some phase of the communications problem or problems in his plant. This official is probably aware of the Ten Commandments of Good Employer-Employee Communication. All executives should have an equal awareness.

These are simple, obvious rules, and because they are both simple and obvious, management people are inclined to overlook some of them. Here they are:

- 1. Be Sincere. You Can't make White out of Black.
- 2. Be Simple and unaffected in your language.
- 3. Don't overglorify the Company.
- 4. Select competent personnel to handle your communications program.
- 5. Make your communications a top-level supervisory responsibility.
- 6. Don't ignore unsavory situations your employees know exist.
- Investigate all devices of communication, and use all that will help.
- 8. Check constantly on the effectiveness of your communications.
- 9. Never let your communications program slow down.
- 10. See the people.1

In the concluding portion to this introductory chapter we should attempt to arrive at some answers to the question - Why Communicate? The brief/est answer, but perhaps as good as any other, is "to maintain the organization." This becomes more clear when we view "an organization as coming into being when (1) there are persons able to communicate with each other (2) who are will-

Newcomb, Robert, and Sammons, Marg, Speak Up, Management!, (Funk & Wagnalls Co., N.Y.), in association with Modern Industry Magazine, N.Y., 1951, pp. 7-9.

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ing to contribute action (3) to accomplish a common purpose."

An organization is composed of people, and, "the real problems are human problems; the real values are human values."

Technological progress depends upon progress in the human relations field.

The reasons for communications are many, as stated before, and may be specific as (1) to promote understanding of specific procedures, (2) to correct and/or discourage misinformation, (3) to prepare for change or announce specific policies. Or, communications may be general in purpose such as (1) attitude surveys, (2) informational matter regarding the plant and its products, (3) defelopment, (4) reconciliation of conflicts which are general in nature, etc. To promote human understanding is to promote good communications and develop leadership.

There must be an organization with a common task or objective. One member, at least, must have responsibilities that differ from those of the other members. If all members perform exactly the same duties in exactly the same way, there is no leadership. A leader becomes differentiated from other members because of the influence he exerts upon setting goals and achievements for the organization. Leaders cannot emerge unless members of the organization assume different responsibilities; and the organization is founded upon the differentiation of responsibility.

To avoid either retrogression or becoming stereotyped a plant must have good communications. This is true even in mass production assembly-line type of enterprises where rather rigid operating procedures prevail. Otherwise, leadership withers on the vine. In its most far-flung aspect, communications keep civilization alive and growing.

Ħ

Barnard, op cit., p. 82.

²Kienzle & Dare, op cit., p. 171.

^{3&}quot;Conference Outline on Communications", Johnson & Johnson Co., New Brunswick, New Jersey, February, 1949.

4"Leadership, Membership, and Organization", Dr. Ralph M. Stogdill, Psychological Bulletin, January, 1950.

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CHAPTER II

SECTION COMMUNICATIONS

In this chapter, I am considering the lower echelons of the plant organization first, and I will briefly consider all directions of communications flow - up, down, and laterally - before proceeding to the next echelon. In the following two chapters. I will discuss Division and Department Communications. My plant organization. from the top down, is therefore assumed to be Department, Division, and Section. I have not chosen to go either above or below these levels for a number of reasons. One reason, albeit a personal one. is time. Another is that a considerable portion of the good communications systems, devices, or media work equally well at all levels of an organization. Important also to my method of covering this matter is my belief that if a clear understanding of communications exists in the lower levels, it is virtually obvious that such an understanding exists at the higher levels. To illustrate, if one asked an employee in a winery what his job was and he replied. "I am a cork-soaker." That would indicate poor communications, if in reality "corksoakers" were important positions. One could assume that an educational series of communications could have corrected this by explaining that corks had to be soaked and softened to permit proper shrinkage or compression to fit the bottles thereby giving tighter fits, permitting aging of wines without any loss of flavor

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or aroma, and producing those musical "pops" when the bottles were opened. The employee then would probably reply, "My job is to see that the wine not only loses no aroma or flavor while aging but also to contribute to your enjoyment, as a consumer, when you remove the cork." Even if in the latter instance his reply was the same as in the first instance, the tone of his reply may very likely indicate a greater degree of pride in his job. (This is illustrative only, I have no knowledge of winery operations except that they make wines.) One of the purposes of this chapter is to explore the communications field and see how pride in the job on the part of the employee might be obtained.

Kinsey M. Robinson, President of the Washington Water Power Company, in a talk to a group of industry leaders stated, "We may talk in print until we are exhausted; our lawyers and publicity men can make the most logical statements on earth. But unless our employees are enthusiastic about what we do, they can neutralize our motives by the single comment - 'Boloney'."

Mr. Robinson was referring to "public relations" in the above situation, but I selected this example because it emphasizes a point which I believe to be important and that is that public relations (in the sense used above) is the outward expression of employee relations. I believe that a company which generally has a good public relations program that achieves good results will also have a good intra-plant communications system. Personal contacts are the best way to build good public relations and man-to-man, direct, conversational type of employee contact is the best way to build good employee relations. The aggregate of these contacts is not only the result of, but also, a measuring

¹ Kienzle & Dare, op cit., p. 217.

or erem, and producing those analysis those the creater were opened in the worldy the mapleyes then amid arcticul routy, as for is to see that the wine out outy iones as arom or flavor sails and out also to contribute to your enjoyment, as a second of, and you remove the sore, " aven if is to too locust instance his reply was the size as in an first instance, the tous of its reply very library indicate a greater action of its reply is illustrative only, I have no instance of prior in the less (but eace of the arms after the instance of the stance of the opened on the margares of the opened to the scalars that occanolastions right and the notation.

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device of the effectiveness of plant communications. Section communications, as used herein, are those communications which occur primarily at the foreman level.

munications system. He is at the bottom of the management level and, in many respects, at the top of the worker level. He, therefore, is the focal point. He reverses the flow of communications, by that I mean, matters communicated downward are executed, analyzed, or experimented with within the level of his immediate supervision and he "kicks-off" the results of the communication as received by him. Generally, he will pass upward additional comment or suggestions from his own level. Thus, he is an originator of communications, too. This last fact, alone, is sufficient to warrant considerable study of communications media for the section level. I do not propose to elaborate on a great variety of media which are often (or could be) used at this level. Instead, such concentration within this report will deal with a few of the better devices.

Henri Fayol was one of the first industrialists to recognize the relative importance of the various abilities which make up the total value of any particular grade of employee. The main point of his discussion along this line was that the higher the positions in the line of authority, the more general the abilities required. Need for technical knowledge decreased as the individual climbed the executive ladder. A similar situation exists with respect to communications. The higher the positions

Lepawsky, Albert, Administration, (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. New York), 1949, p. 6.

device of the effectioners of grant commissions, denvisor commissions, and accommissions enter community of the foreign level.

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in the line of authority at which communications originate, the more general in nature are their texts. Vivid illustration of this is readily available in the Armed Forces. In World War II. a Joint Chiefs of Staff directive would read somewhat as follows: "About the month of May (or before June 1 or some other rather general time limitation) attack, seize, and destroy the enemy on Horseshoe Atoll (or neutralize the Hibernation Islands, etc.)." A line or two or a very short paragraph at the most constituted the original directive (communication). As I recall, the instructions to General Eisenhower in establishing the Second Front were four lines in length. Additional elements, more specific in nature are attached to the original and become in turn an original communication, for that level, as the communication flows downward. The enormity of this planning task, resultant of the series of echelons through which the basic directive passed, often led to the facetious remark that one shipload of papers was needed for every five shiploads of troops and supplies.

The attack force, in this analogy, was the foreman level. The lessons learned by the attack force were the principal communications upward and were of substantial importance in contributing to the war effort in subsequent operations. The fighting men were the turkning point of the communications, primarily because they were the most direct participants in fulfilling the purpose of the original communication. This leads to the general proposition that in cases where downward communications require upward response, the responsibility for originating the upward

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response rests with that level of the executive hierarchy which is most directly involved. In industry, the primary purpose is the fulfillment of production goals. This involves the section level. The section level is the soil in which the seeds of communication germinate and reach their fruition. Just as in the case of the Armed Forces, intra-plant communications originating at the section level can be and very often are of great significance.

word. It is the most universal form of human cooperation. It may be augmented, and frequently is, by other media such as visual aids, graphs, written summaries of that which is orally transmitted, etc. Perhaps the chief reason why the oral form is the most important is that it is the one most widely used within a plant. The foreman, or section head, in communicating does so with those whom he supervises on a man-to-man basis. Realizing this, management should encourage upward communications from the section. Sincerity, as previously mentioned, is vital if upward communications are to be effective. The sincerity of the employees' response to the employer will be in a direct ratio to the sincerity of the employer's inquiry to the employees.

This is true of all other things, it is a natural law that each species begets its own kind; and undesirable traits such as insincerity, unfairness, inconsistency, sarcasm, bluffing, holier-than-thou attitudes, etc. will return to haunt the employer or management if used by him toward the employees. This return will be much greater than that which management passed down be-

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cause of the simple fact that the employees outnumber the employer. Their effort, individually, may be less but the aggregate will be considerably larger.

Mr. Neil McElroy, President of Procter and Gamble Company states:

We conceive of communications, essentially, as a way of working with our people. Good communications, with us, results from having something to communicate; sound policies, beliefs, and principles of operation. Having that, we make use, wherever we can, of personal communications.

Sound policies - something worthwhile communicating passed on to employees, and their reactions reflected
back through man-to-man communication: from these, confidence and mutual understanding and a vigorous, cooperative operation results. This kind of organization
spirit provides the basis of a company's ability to take
care of itself in today's and tomorrow's competitive
drive for business; an ability that is good for employees,
management, the stockholder, and the public.

managements in the importance given to personal communications.

Mr. Ralph L. Lee of General Motors Corporation stresses the importance of getting acquainted and keeping acquainted with employees in a little booklet entitled "Man-to-Man On the Job" (a series of meetings for foremen and executives of General Motors Corporation). The establishment of the proper environment for effective communications is a result of leadership; hence, a knowledge of what a leader is and some signs or characteristics of leadership may contribute to a better understanding of communications. Two separate sources of leadership characteristics are given below; whether or not it is pure coincedence that each

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l"Communications - A way of working with people within a Company." (An address before a meeting of the National Industrial Conderence Board, N.Y., by Neil McElroy, President of Procter & Gamble Co.)

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list has thirty characteristics, I will leave to the reader to judge.

Kienzle and Dare list the following:1

A real leader is a man of action.

He knows what you want as well as what he wants.

He has an answer.

He knows how to win and hold confidence.

He is dependable.

He is thorough.

He is calm.

He heads a team.

He is a good organizer.

He is a good administrator.

He delegates authority. He understands people.

He knows how to handle people.

He is human.

He is humane.

He is absolutely fair and honest.

He has good judgment.

He is tolerant.

He respects the rights of others.

He is generous by nature. He has a sense of hudor.

He is a good teacher.

He is eager to learn. He has vision.

He has vision.

He is progressive.

He generates ideas.

He is courageous.

He is humble.

He is intelligent.

He is a hard worker.

Mr. Ralph L. Lee lists the following as signs of leader-ship. $\!\!^{2}$

- A low voice and, frequently, slow and thoughtful speech.
- 2. A neat appearance in moderate style.

3. Rarely in a hurry.

4. Easy gait and moderate pace.

5. Does not show all he feels and thinks.

6. Looks you squarely in the eye without staring.

7. Punctual.

8. Orderly.
9. Accurate.

LKienzle & Dare, op cit., pp. 49-54.

²Lee, Ralph L., <u>Man-to-Man On The Job</u> (Booklet on a series of meetings for foremen and executives of General Motors Corporation), 1943. GMC.

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- 10. Decent.
- 11. Laughs only when he means it, and then under control.
- 12. Rarely interrupts.
- 13. Rarely says "I".
- 14. Is not afraid to have others think he dossn't know when he doesn't.
- 15. Rarely tells everything he knows.
- 16. Makes sure you know the difference between his opinions and his facts.
- 17. Easy to meet and easy to leave.
- 18. Enjoys a contest of wits and a game of chance.
- 19. A good loser.
- 20. Bored with too much logic.
- 21. Is not usually a heavy reader.
- 22. Hard to sweep off his feet.
- 23. Quickly gets to the point.
- 24. Never takes himself too seriously.
- 25. Does not like to do things himself; likes to do what he does through others.
- 26. Likes people.
- 27. Likes to lead.
- 28. Has assurance.
- 29. Not inclined to sit still for long.
- 30. Good memory.

In establishing and maintaining the good environment for communications, the foreman enhances his leadership abilities.

Those whom he supervises respect and have confidence in him. The successful foreman is a keen student of hugan nature, quick to realize the strength and weaknesses of his workers. He treats each person as an individual and handles each differently. In other words, his manner of communicating varies according to the individual with whom he is communicating. By this is not necessarily meant a different media or means of communication, but an identical oral communication may have several "meanings" or listener responses through variation of emphasis used on different words.

James F. Bender cites as an example of this a simple question which changes its meaning as you shift the vocal emphasis:

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The words are exactly alike in all eight readings. Yet each shift of emphasis brings about a different response in the listemer's mind. 1

employees under him can vary the interest and listener response by emphasizing the particular word or point which appeals to or stimulates a particular individual. Nearly everyone has a predominant stimuli, if this stimuli is known the correct approach or emphasis may be determined. Number One above could possibly be used on the individual who is stimulated by logical reasoning; Number Three by the individual who responded to self-interest; Number Five by the individual who responded to team work and fair play, etc. The example above is in the form of a question, and questions are a good means of facilitating communications. They are the dredges which keep the channel open and permit a true two-way flow. Needless to say the questions which are asked must be intelligent and pertinent to some facet of the enterprise.

You can do two things with a question:

1. Let the other person know what you think.

2. You can at the same time pay him the complement of asking his opinion. 2

The foreman who knows his worker's interests or stimuli

should appeal to those stimuli in his communications. Underlying

**Bender, James F., The Technique of Executive Leadership, (McGraw - Hill Book Co., Inc: N.Y., London,
Toronto), 1950, p. 166.

²Bettger, Frank, The Art of Successful Selling, (Prentice-Hall, Inc. New York), 1949, 7th Printing, p. 76.

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all communications relationships are people and people differ and have different natural limitations. The foreman who is aware of this knows that: "The acorn can grow into a scrub oak or a giant of the forest - but it can't become a maple, no matter how much it is cultivated." The approach or communication, therefore, differs between the communicator and different types of communicants (foreman and workers). Thus far, speaking has been stressed and might lead one to the conclusion that the foreman is nothing but a "chatter-box" between the workers and other supervisory levels. This is an erroneous impression. The good foreman is also a good listener. He doesn't talk too much. Silence is golden and may itself, at the proper time and place, be an effective form of communication. Actions speak louder than works is an old maxim and silence may appropriately be the best action in some instances. Also, somewhat related to the silence theme and to further dispel the chatter-box idea pertaining to foremen is what could be a corollary to the commandment, "Don't overglorify the Company," The corollary - "Don't over-communicate." This leads to the general question of "when should there be communications in the plant?" The answer is constantly. The most effective communications system is one which is continuous. There are enough pertinent matters within any plant to permit a steady functioning of the communications system, and it therefore should be kept free from trivia, unimportant, or non-pertinent matter. The more driftwood of this nature that there is in the stream, the more difficult it becomes to pass pertinent communications through the current. Such

lee, op cit., p. 41.

certifications, the minore were against the sandgeoffmuses lies and area different actional installant, The former or ever in more a to the second come were one made after stand amount atal to sol this at alone a second times of you - Jewyl boy to Just most it is ould sweet, " The from so or one only the state of differs rebused the communicator and different arms of one or locute (fore n no workers), rims for, meeting has seen or card and tow si assert and that motorlance edd of one heel that the intol vareiva-que ganto bas s'andres ell ses ded "xod-as deno This is at erroneous impression. The good foreign is size a great listener. He duenn't buik too mann. illamos is opiner and see to stol syllawing as no apeals bas said temper was to altest alter lis on si Too e en a noof a sue anoido. noides comme . seem rout a more untilone tese aux so visitizarings van somelie bas learth rent of or account specific ods of bostler releases, once and blood trang of command of maintains and manufactured be a coroller to the accomment, "Den't over larify as Company." "te carollary - "Den't over-compatible," This last to man on-Tel quasal on of " hen should course a commissions to ohe planting emicratic door off . With dang at revene off "Finely tions system is one which is continuous. "There ere enough on the and to patrontoning an or of the far far for middle and on the cor unicordand archim, and it sacrefore accuse to kent free free from salvia, unimportunt, or non-partituent mater, The more artiviace AL SEMPTOTES TOO DAY , DESCRIPTION OF THE MOTOR PROPERTY AND TO door electro our knewers amount our man of assenced

situations if allowed to continue will result in stagnation and destroy communications effectiveness.

To facilitate keeping the communications system in excellent condition, perhaps the most important device is the employee group meetings.

The group meeting is essentially a two-way communications device. If it isn't a function wherein employees have an opportunity to ask questions, then it isn't a group meeting - it's a management lecture...Few companies that have embarked on group-conferences programs with employees have abandoned them. On the contrary, they have refined and developed their techniques year after year, profiting from what employees have had to say about these powwows. Among the companies "sold" on the employee meeting or conference method, here are the agreed advantages:

1. It's personal communication. It is the man-to-man meeting and no other type matches it for effectiveness.

- 2. It's two-way communication at its best. This is a setting where the employer has a chance to say what he wants to say, to an audience whose interest he can measure. It's where the employee under the proper encouragement can express his own ideas and ask his own questions.
- 3. It is a flexible medum. If yours is a printed program, you are confined to the framework of a printed program. If it is an employee group meeting, you can shift with the moods or interests of your audience
- can shift with the moods or interests of your audience.
 4. It isn't cut and dried. It doesn't have to be stuffy unless you yourself insist upon making it so. It can be conducted in a comfortable, informal atmosphere.
- 5. It is an interpretive medium. If the company has a point to make, its representatives can make sure the point is understood before moving on to the next. In the printed or published type of communication, management can only hope that it has answered all the questions.1

A hasty reading of the above advantages would seem to indicate that this device is better suited for echelons above the section level but it is apparent that it is effective at all

¹ Newcomb and Sammons, op cit., pp. 194-195.

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levels and particularly so at the lowest levels. The writer had collateral duty as Safety Officer of a Depot of Supplies which employed about 2500 people about equally divided between military and civilian. Weekly 10 or 15 minute "stand-up" safety conferences were held at the lowest level (workers and their leadingmen). The forthcoming week's work as it had been previously planned was discussed with particular attention to accident hazards. The results were so effective that for eleven months there was not a single lost-time accident, and First-Aid cases were reduced about 35%. This is the rough equivalent of slightly over fifty people working an entire lifetime (between ages 18 & 65 or 47 years) without a lost-time accident! I attribute that performance to two important reasons - First, the sincerity of management. The Safety Program had the complete backing of management from the Commanding General on down. Secondly, the weekly safety meeting was between the workers and their leadingmen at which time a bona fide group discussion was held. Two-way communications resulted from this face-to-face meeting. Beneficial suggestions as to safety features flowed upward. The workers were aware of management's interest in their welfare and safety. The employees participated in the safety program and their participation was sincere. I do not believe that the importance of sincerity in making communications effective can be over-stressed. Abraham Lincoln once wrote:

If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him

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that you are his sincere friend. Therein is a drop of honey that catches his heart, which is the high road to his reason, and which, when once gained, you will find but little trouble in convincing his judgment of the justice of your cause, if indeed that cause be a just one.1

The foreman or section head as a representative of the management is in a very good position to convince employees of management's sincerity of purpose, etc. He is a teacher; by proper communication techniques he can accomplish five important fundamentals for helping his workers learn quickly and well:

- In getting across information emphasize its use and application on the job.
- 2. Stir the learner to activity; get him to participate.
- 8. Give the employee time to digest what he learns.
- 4. Help the employee see what is especially important.
- 5. Help the employee understand the meaning of what he is learning.2

Another important principle of communications is Be on the Level. This involves not merely the ideas of honesty and sincerity but neither "talking down" to the employee nor "over his head." This does not allow any feelings of inferiority or superiority on the part of either the employee or his boss. The scales are in balance; the employee not only participates but "feels" that he has actively participated. Two-way flow is obviously better where it has neither up nor down grades to contend with. By following this principle the "climate" of mutual understanding and confidence is enhanced. "Conniving" is not smart, such gains as may accrue can only be temporary in nature and the reprisals are sure to follow. By being on the level, the

Bettger, op cit., p. 139.

^{2&}quot;Staff Development...the Supervisor's Job", (U.S. Govt. Printing Office), 1948, Federal Security Agency Training Manual No. 6.

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The forewn or section head as a representative of the community of purpose, etc. if the equipment of the community of purpose, etc. if the community of purpose, etc. if the techniques proper community that techniques has non constant, for helpin, his workers heart pointing as a constant.

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deliger, op ole,, p. 183.

"informal communications" are kept in their proper place. Rumors and other non-authentic forms of communications are minimized.

A brief examination of informal communications indicates that they usually do not follow the channels or any formally designated patterns and are concerned primarily with the human relations of the work situation and serve the needs of the worker rather than the needs of the job. This is what is commonly referred to as the "grapevine", and is generally an accepted feature of a plant communication system. Gardner and Moore discuss it as follows:

Usually it is nothing more than the passing-on of information from one friend to another without regard to any formal organizational lines. Often there is a clique of secretaries to the top executives who keep each other informed as to what is going on. Sometimes there are lunchcon groups of supervisors from various departments which enable them to trade news of changes and developments. and of rumors and gossip about what is going on throughout the company. Individuals have friends in various organizations from whom they can get off-the-record information and keep in touch with those organizations, and to whom they are careful to give similar information and informal reports. The successful operation of the grapevine, however, is dependent tupon the discretion with which each person uses the information it brings him. If Jim tells Joe at lunch that his department is having trouble on a certain job, and Joe goes around talking about the trouble that Jom is having, it usually ends up with Jim being mad at Joe and feeling that he can not trust him. And from then on, Jim either avoids Joe or is careful not to tell him anything that should be treated confidentially.1

As was indicated in Chapter I, the possible number of relationships among small groups of five or six people is 26 for a group of five and 57 for a group of six. The branches of the grapevine may therefore be quite complex andcoreate an intricate

Gardner, Burleigh B., and Moore, David G., Human Relations in Industry, (Richard D. Irwin, Inc. Chicago), Revised Edition, 1950, p. 44.

"informat non-unidential form of non-unidential and united lines are obtained."

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network. As Barnard indicates the leadership which emerges results in making formality out of informality. If communications exist at all, and they must exist if the enterprise is to continue, the grapevine will always be present in some degree. The grapevine is more widespread in the lateral flow of communications. This is inherent from the organization structure. Lines of authority, or the formalized channels of communications, are shown in organization charts, etc. Employees are aware of them by the mere fact that they see part of the "boss" elements of the plant daily. The General Manager, Plant Superintendent, Department Head, or Division Officer in random plant tours or wherever seen by the worker automatically symbolize the formality of the organization. Also, such appearances provide the "spark" for additional grapevine communications. This does not necessarily indicate an unhealthy situation, but can be an element of good. The mere fact that the "Big Boss" was seen in the shops or along the line can leave a feeling of interest in the worker's welfare. The foreman or section head may himself make judicious use of the grapevine in such cases.

In order to keep the grapevine under control, the question of "What should be communicated?" ought to be condidered. Johnson & Johnson Co. list three categories of facts to be communicated:

(a) Those that must be told. They are things that directly and rather immediately affect a man on his job. These include work assignments, work flow in offices, machine repair, materials, pay, methods of operation, overtime, hours, safety, rules and regulations,

l"Conference Outline on Communications", Johnson & Johnson Company, op cit.

Determine. As serviced loads was the Lamberton outpost and amounts in unting formality out of caferwaits. If nonmarchalisms while at mil, and they were twist if the emoutates in to promiting, the erspective will simply to proceed to some Carres, The entering in sign eldengrend in the lateral file of communectoms, this is meteor from the organization perturbane, lines or authority, or the consisted warments or computer that, we warm in or or other than photos, etc. Jeployens are muse or tone of the ware feet and they can part of the "count themses of the first only, rat will be a look of the ment of the control of the co to you was go many newstand to stand duely mobile in westing notal suto ciccing symbolish has los with of the or all on the or. carry one for ideas. Tor "steeps" and objects assure ages four columns, or election with managed for soon bits inclinations situation, but one be an element of and a loss were for that the A synet mas and, and that we spend an all mess ser "cook all feeling of Interest in the soriet's satisface. The forest or section herd may himself make judicious our of the describe in sont may'r.

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duties, responsibilities, etc. (b) Those that should be told. These are facts allittle less directly or less immediately connected with the work operations or the physical conditions surrounding the job. These facts include those necessary to coordinate ones! work with that of other people or other departments. They deal a little more with the future and that physical environment which is a little distant from the job. They include vacation policy. company services, recreation, management policy, departmental organization, the place of the job in the whole scheme of things, expected standards of personal conduct, the finished product, anticipated changes influencing the man, the job, or the department. (c) Those things that it would be nice to tell. These might be thought of by some as luxury items. They deal broadly with the company, its organization, its leaders, its economy, its plans for growth and expansion, the company product lines, its advertising, sales, research, legal, and manufacturing departments and their problems, broad company policy, the economic order, citizenship, etc.

The premises of the International Harvester Company's program for informing employees (what to communicate) is:

- 1. Every employee has the right to know what the company does, how it does it, why it does it, and who benefits from it. The officers of the company recognize that employees have a vital interest in the company because what it does affects their personal welfare.
- Employees are more cooperative and efficient if they know how the contributions of their work fits into the activities and products of the company.
- 3. Workers are intelligent and reasonable people. When

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they have the same information as management, they will probably reach the same conclusions, provided all parties are sincerely and honestly aware of their responsibilities and do their best to live up to them. 1

The two examples given above whow with considerable emphasis that facts are what should be communicated. This is in keeping with a principle of communications - Be Specific: If information is not fact but opinion. it must be clearly understood by the recipient that auch is the case. The foreman in this level of section communications is again in a strategic position to augment the communications system. For his level, he is the person from whom the workers expect to get the facts. A simple conclusion to both questions of "when" and "what" in communications is that facts should be continuously told. By complying with this simple statement, enough pertinent factual information is injected into the formal communications stream to "feed" the informal or grapevine channels. Thus, the grapevine becomes an asset and an essential adjuant of formal relationships. Stated another way. the "why". "what" and "when" of the formal communications is the soil in which the grapevine has its roots. As long as this is true the grapevine can be encouraged to flourish in the manner which will increase the company's effectiveness, but as soon as it begins to feed on "foreign" soil its fruit will also be foreign to the company. Again, the foreman is the man on the spot who can deal with the situation most readily; he can detect the foreign elements in the soil and either remove or neutralize them. Application of specificness can be of material assistance in this: when rumors reach

Parker, Willard E., and Kleemeier, Robert W., Human Relations in Supervision, (McGraw - Hill Book Co: N.Y., London, Toronto), 1951, p. 31.

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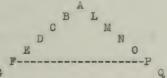
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his ears, or he overhears such remarks as "they say", "several fellows told me", "the boys in shipping heard", etc. he is able to straighten the branches of the grapevine by removing these generalities and obtaining specific cases. This prevents undue distortion of facts. When the grapevine is in the proper soil, there will emerge as a result of these informal communications much material for formalizing and which will generate additional upward flow. The grapevine may often be an accurate "pulse" by which to guage the overall health of the business. A good grapevine may be an indicator of high morale.

Another form of lateral communications which has more to do with the needs of the job, rather than the needs of the people as the grapevine is suspected of doing, is that which is known by Henri Fayol's term of "bridging."

Let us suppose that it is necessary to put function F in communication with function P, in an undertaking whose hierarchy is represented by the double ladder G-A-Q. In order to follow the hierarchic channel, we should have to climb the ladder from F to A and then go down from A to P, stopping at each rung, and then repeat this journey in the opposite direction in order to get back to our starting point

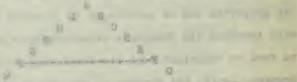


It is clearly much simpler and quicker to go straight from F to P using the bridge F-P, and this is what is most frequently done. The hierarchic principle will be safeguarded if E and O have authorized their respective subordinates, F and P, to enter into direct relations, and the situation will, finally, be perfectly in order if F and P immediately tell their respective chiefs what

and which, or he presidence outs, and it was a very and a contract. Pellow told me", this cops as the plant would wanted to stratighten the brundless of the proper of it re-come the mount spellsten and obtaining spentitle storm. The deferred once allthe same of the same of the same of the same taraton of feets, then the greature to in the course sail, then THE R. P. LEWIS CO., LANSING, MICH. LANSING, LAN that went to be made I went that would be disper a see square fife CONTRACTOR AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY. but we design the contract of the second that we have been puteline to the second that the sec THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER. Have The graphs may often be as secured "yourse" of surey to The second secon the overeit health of the motions a good province of A later to the to roseller an ×93 -

do with the series of the jes, sether the contents of the series of the series of the series of the series of the state of the series of "bridging."

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 they have agreed to do. So long as F and P remain in agreement and their actions are approved by their immediate supervisors, direct relations can be continued, but as soon as either of these conditions cease to exist, direct relations must stop and the hierarchic channel be resumed.

The use of the bridge is simple, wwift, and sure; it allows the two employees F and P, in one meeting of a few hours, to deal with a question which by the hierarchic channel would go through twenty transmissions, inconvenience mapy people, entail an enormous amount of writing, and waste weeks or months in arriving at a solution.

The above descriptive situation is, of course, in Reeping with the principle of keeping communications lines as short and as direct as possible. In my opinion, is does not necessarily follow that twenty transmissions would result. E and 0 could "bridge" regarding matters upon which F and P were unable to agree, as long as D and N were informed, etc. This "bridging" or cross-channeling is in essence another name for cooperation and coordination. It was noted earlier in Chapter I that cooperativeness rests upon the foundation, Communications. Coordination is necessary in any successful one-man activity. When two or more coordinate, cooperativeness results:

This principle of a short and direct communications line does not violate the principle that the complete line should usually be used, if viewed in the light of harmonious relationship. The formal line is used up to that point where a harmonious "bridging" will result. Both these principles are in great measure dependent upon broad company policies of extent of delegation of authorities and responsibilities. Lateral communications within the section

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will generally be in keeping with the foreman's understanding of those broader organizational concepts.

In summation of section communications, the foreman is the focal point. He is at the bottom of the formal lines of authority and communications. He is the spokesman for the plant at the level where it counts most in plant effectiveness. His intimacy with the work and the workers results in a situation unique in comparison to other levels of management. Gardner and Noore express it thusly:

....he (foreman) is, to a considerable extent, the one who interprets management to the workers; he is, to a large degree, the only representative of management with whom the workers have much contact; he is the one who imposes management's controls upon them. For this reason he has an important influence upon their attitudes toward the job, the management, and the company generally. He is the one who can most directly affect their morale and loyalty. I

To this array might be added he is man-to-man on the job, the very essence of cooperation. He is in the enviable position of being able to make greatest use of the most effective form of communications, i.e., oral, direct, face-to-face. This is without question the most effective type for inculcating pride of person, pride in job, and pride in association with the plant as a whole. The plant, therefore, that has outstanding foremanship will have an excellent communication system. If communications worked properly at all levels except the section (foreman) level, the plant would remain ineffective. The poor foremen thwart good communications; hence, a study of what makes good foremen would

loardner and Moore, op cit., p. 52.

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CHAPTER III

DIVISION COMMUNICATIONS

In Chapter II. much emphasis was given to oral or spoken, face-to-face communications. It was so intended. Whenever possible, and in most plants it should usually be possible at all times, primary reliance should be placed upon that medium for the single reason of effectiveness. Every reference available agrees on that point. This does not preclude other media such as bulletin boards, time card "tips", pay envelope messages, etc., but media of these types usually have their origin above the section level. One of the missions of Division communications would therefore appear to be the establishment or development of devices that contribute to the enhancement of the section man-toman relationships. For obvious reasons, the Division Officer ought not to contact the workers personally. (Exceptions may be made if life is at stake or a grafe emergency arises, etc.) This violates organizational and communications principles. Even though the Division Officer is one step further removed from the workers, it does not preclude an intereaction or identification with the workers and with the foreman as go-between. Figuratively, the situations could be depicted in three general ways. (A) The fore an identified with the workers, or (B) the foreman identified with the Division Officer, or (C) the Division integrated as a Unit with strong identification throughout by all personnel in

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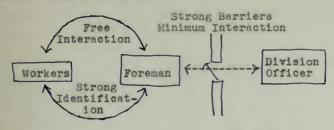


Figure A. Foreman Identified With Workers

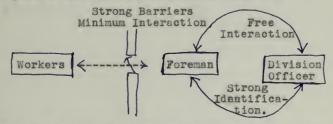


Figure B. Foreman Identified With Division Officer

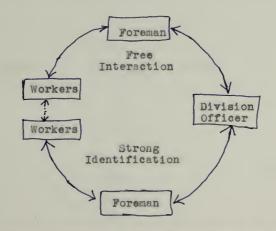
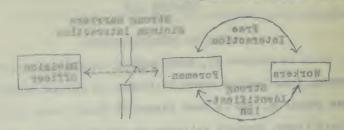


Figure C. Integration and Identification of Division as a Unit. No Barriers.

Figures A and B from Gardner & Moore, op cit., p. 49.
Figure C is my own idea.

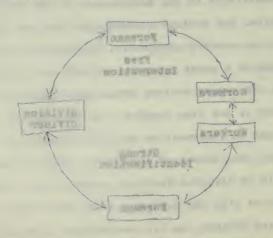
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In such cases as Figure C above, "we see very easy interactions between workers, foreman, and Division Officer, and the Division Officer is usually in close touch with the details of the job and with the individuals. The foreman feels very comfortable under these conditions, soes not worry about the presence of the Division Officer, and does not need to cover up mistakes or try to protect the group, since theboss can be trusted. In many instances of this kind, the whole division stands as a unit against outside pressures or against demands from above. Protably these are the most comfortable and satisfactory work situations for the foreman and the workers."

I agree with that comment except on the point of close touch between individuals and the Division Officer, if it is meant by that instructions on the "how-to" of the work, etc. That is a matter for the foreman, but as I tried to show in Figure C, the lack of barriers and the harmony existing are results of an integrated communications system. I assume that what was intended by "close touch" was that communications could be rapidly transmitted.

The Division Officer has functions which are quite different from those of the section head. He need not be as familiar, technically, with the work. He is concerned with a greater volume of the written media of communications than is the foreman. He tends to use more written media in communicating up the line than does the foreman. Many upward communications which originate with

¹Gardner & Moore, on cit., p. 50. (Figures A and B and the quoted statement used Department in lieu of Division, but the same level was referred to. I, therefore, substituted for purposes of this report.)

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the workers or the foreman are condensed to writing at this level before continuing upward. The coordinating aspects of the Division Officer's job are more extensive than are those below his level.

Much of the detailed information needed for coordination can be provided by working papers that follow an established path from one division to another or between departments and divisions. Written reports are frequent. This does not mean that the Division Officer has fewer or less marked leadership attributes than the foreman; the converse is true. The Division Officer should have greater abilities as a leader, and by his example will the standards be set.

one very important means which the Division Officer has at his disposal for improving communications is the Supervisor Training Program. The Personnel Department may attend to many of the details of such a program, but I believe that active preticipation by the Division Officer is essential also. It assumes more realism for the foremen if their "bosses" are helping to run the program. Also, the Division Officer will make greater use of psychological aids in communication. Examples of this would be round tables in the Division conference room so all are "equals", light green paint on the walls, proper room temperature, graphs or other dramatic "props" to highlight key points, etc. Such media contribute to the effectiveness of the man-to-man talks between the Division Officer and his formen. The subject matter of these meetings will generally be a great deal more diversified than the worker-

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the workers or the formers are processed to riting the investment of the string of the

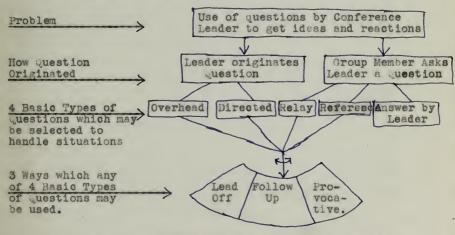
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foreman level meetings. This is an excellent opportunity for the Division Officer to "teach the teachers." Therefore, augmenting the "shop" talk with general executive-development type periods is a worthwhile communications device. It is creative. It shows the foremen that continuity of the business is expected; that the Division Officer is willing to develop a replacement; that media which improve the individual will improve the plant as well and give a greater feeling of security on the job.

At the Division level, also, it is very important to recognize the power of the simple spoken question. Mr. E. S. Hannaford diagrams it as follows:1

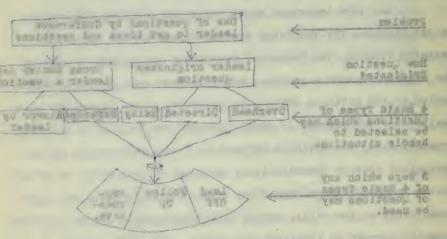


Questions are powerful because they require an answer.

The Division Officer being farther removed from the work is apt to know less about the progress at a particular moment than the foreman. Hence, the Division Officer's communication devices are apt

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to be more interrogatory, on the whole, than were the foreman's devices. Questions are good salesmen too. In explaining changes of procedure, etc. to foremen, the Division Officer can by consciously selecting the right basic type of question use it to get the result he wants and at the same time leave an impression of participation on the part of the foreman.

The Division Officer has more opportunity than the foremen does to voice his opinions, to see the processes of decisionmaking, and possibly to influence them; and he generally has more of a feeling of being a part of management. It follows from this that he is more concerned with overall planning aspects than is the foreman. As a result of his planning or creativeness he may develop plans which when approved will affect the workers. In my opinion, in such cases, the Division Officer should be guided by the proposition that -- In general, original communications of the Division Officer which will affect the workderand which require higher approval should first be communicated downward, for foreman's information and reaction, before being transmitted upward for approval. There are advantages in this procedure. First, the foreman may help in crystallizing the contemplated action or he may have a better idea of his own to offer as a substitute. Secondly, greater feelings of confidence are created between Division Officer and foremen. Third, the foreman is not caught short; he will have some planning to do also. Fourth, by having had at least a little something to do with it, he will feel more kindly disposed toward it, even though he may not agree with it one hundred percent. The

Gardner and Moore, op cit., p. 56

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most prominent drawback to the general proposition as advanced above is that it is time-consuming. If speed is of the essence, it may require simultaneous movement in both directions. Dwonward for implementation and upward for approval and making known the fact that it has been implemented downward and giving reasons therefor.

Generally speaking, the Division Officer's task of making himself understood to his sestion he ds or foremen is his most important task. In a large part of this process, the Division Officer will be passing on (communication down) orders or instructions received from Department or higher levels. The job does not end at this point, however, as communication is more than an order-giving function.

There is need to find out whether or not orders are being carried out and what resistance they are meeting. Management that understands reactions to orders is in a position to shape orders in a manner that will cause them to be carried out more whole-heartedly, more fully, and more expeditiously. 1

The section head, or foreman, makes an additional interpretation of orders fgseived by him. This interpretation is to the workers and the workers accept such interpretation as the intention of management. The Division Officer must therefore concern himself with the upward communication from the foremant to him, not only as to the results of the order as intrepreted by the foreman to the workers, but also, in some instances, he may need to know what the foreman's interpretations were. Both the Division Officer and foreman should have a working knowledge or familiarity with certain principles regarding orders.

¹McLarney, William J., Management Training, (Richard D. Irwin, Inc: Chicage, Homewood, Illinois), 1952, p. 69.

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Shown below is one author's listing of such principles.1

VERBAL ORDERS

When to Use Verbal Orders

1. When the order is simple.

2. When a demonstration is to accompany it.

When it affects only a small group of people.
 When it is to be carried out at that time and place - not on another shift or location.

Steps In Giving Verbal Orders

1. Require complete attention.

2. Give the order clearly and in a manner suited to the receiver.

3. Give a demonstration if necessary.

- 4. Point out any difficulties or hazards to watch for in carrying it out.
- 5. Then find out whether the receiver understands what is expected of him; if necessary, heve him repeat the main points.

Steps In Receiving Verbal Orders

1. Listen intently.

2. Sort the information in terms of Who? What? Where? When? Why? and How?

3. Ask to be shown if necessary.

4. Get it in writing if it is too detailed or complicated to remember.

Reasons Why Verbal Orders Are Misunderstood

1. Speaking indistinctly.

- 2. Giving orders where there is too much noise or confusion.
- 3. Using words that are unfamiliar to the listener.
- 4. Assuming that the listener knows what the ordergiver has in mind.
- 5. Giving orders that are incomplete or sketchy.

WRITTEN ORDERS

When To Use Written Orders

- When the worker is slow to grasp ideas br is forgetful.
- 2. When precise figures or complicated details are involved.
- When the sequence is important and needs to be followed exactly.
- 4. When the instructions are to be passed on to another shift.

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- 2. When the sequence to the ortact put made to be rolling as early.
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- 5. When the work is to be done at a distance from the order-giver.
- When it is desired to hold the worker or department strictly accountable.
- 7. When a record is needed, or the order will have to be referred to later.

Why Written Orders Are Misunderstood 1. The words used do not have clear and definite

- 1. The words used do not have clear and definite meanings.
- The sentence structure is faulty (e.g., Throw the horse over the fence some hay).
- Too many words in and overelaborate arrangement make the order complicated.
- 4. The instructions are not arranged in logical sequence.

ponsibility for knowing his men than the foreman has in knowing his men. If the Division Officer knows his foremen, he can "tailor" the order to fit the receiver. In knowing, we might set forth these principles as a guide. (In the sense as used in the foot-noted reference below, this "knowing" pertained to a public relations specialist and the public, meaning the community. However, public relations has many publics - plant and government; plant & employees; plant & community; plant & union; plant & customers; plant & owners; plant and industry, etc. I have taken the liberty of substituting the word foreman for public in listing these principles as I believe it is equally applicable, and it stresses the extent to which such knowledge can assist the Division Officer in giving orders to his foremen.)

Know your foreman.
Know what he thinks.
Know why he thinks so.
Know how he arrives at his conclusions.

The Division Officer's job in knowing his foreman is

lWright, J. Handly, and Christian, Byron H., Public Relations in Management, (McGraw - Hill Book Co., Inc: N.Y., London, Toronto), 1949, p. 20.

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men. The level of intelligence and experience of the foremen is likely to be higher than that of the workers. Also, the foreman will generally have more workers reporting to him than the number of foremen reporting to the Division Officer. In addition, each foremen will need to know the other foremen within the Division. If both the foreman and the Division Officer perform their job of knowing in keeping with the four principles listed above then the situation depicted earlier in Figure C will be realized and the entire Division will be molded into an effective team. Needless to say, the communications problems will be simplified. A knowledge of human behavior is a potent thing in industrial management.

For the members of the team to be effectively coordinated, in theory, each must have a knowledge of the behavior of all others as a basis for determining his own behavior. Thus, the more profound meaning of coordination is not a mechanical putting together of automatons called organization members. If individual initiative is to be retained in appropriate degree in the organization, then the individual must have enough knowledge to coordinate his actions with others effectively. This is the more significant sense of coordination and its basis in communication.

This is exactly what players do in a football game or a bridge game, etc. They know one another and know what to expect by means of signals, bids, etc. and each player has an accurate expectation as to what his teammates will do and he can determine the proper means for cooperation toward the common goal. Knowledge of this type makes smooth and easy the giving and receiving of orders.

¹ Dubin, Robert, Human Relations in Administration, (Prentice - Hall Inc: N.Y., 1951, p. 310.

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linear, towns, one ottored in dest trailing (Problem - only and Mary, 1907, p. 120.

With regard to orders, management needs to know that an order has been carried out, and it needs to know also how that order was received, whether it met resistance or caused resentment, how long it took to adjust to it, and how well it is working. Management also needs to get the specialized knowledge of subordinates piped to it up the line of communications. Otherwise how can this information be utilized at the top? How can improvements be made in the work situation if those in a position to make them do not know what improvements are needed.

Two-way communications is an appropriate summation of these processes of proper orders, knowledge of people, and the Division as an integrated unit. Teamwork has been defined as enlightened self-interest. The enlightenment comes comes in the realization that as a part of a group each individual can enhance himself more than by being a "lone-wolf." Two-way communications between the Division Officer and the foremen generate mutual understanding and confidence. It has been stated that:

This kind of mutual understanding comes about only through frequent and candid exchange of views. Open give-and-take improves the executive's knowledge as well as that of his subordinates, and enables the subordinates to perceive the boss as an aid rather than a threat (knowledge refers to knowledge of operations)....When misunderstandings do occur, they can be eliminated most quickly if an executive's questions are regarded as bona fide inquirties, not preludes to criticism. An agreement freely entered into can be redefined, altered, and clarified as action is taken on the basis of it.

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The Division Officer in acquiring knowledge of people with whom he is associated in the plant will also learn what the foremen and the workers want from their jobs. It is information of this type that management should be particularly interested in. Such information should receive priority handling in up and communications.

McLarney, op cit., p. 80.

²Learned, Edmund P., Ulrich, David N., and Booz, Donald R., Executive Action, (Andover Press: Andover, Mass.), 1951, p. 108.

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Charles P. McCormick, President of McCormisk & Company, states, "I think there are only five basic factors that employees want from their jobs: 1. Fair Pay.... 2. Security.... 3. Opportunity.... 4. Recognition.... 5. Participation...." Without a good communications system top management may never know the desires of its people, or equally bad in some cases, may learn it too late.

In conference type meetings, at all levels, one effective communication medium is the pictorial or graphic form. One author has stated. "Ideally, a writer should never use words to communicate something that can more effectively be communicated by a picture."2 Even though the statement pertains to written material. it applies. I am sure, as well when augmenting the spoken word. A certain amount of care must be used in the preparation of such material. If it isn't self-explanatory or easily understood with the aid of legends, etc., it must be supplemented with additional information either oral or written. It is generally accepted that oral communications should be used whenever possible. Their effectiveness is rapidly being recognized by many mana ements which heretofore had shrugged off any ideas of oral communication to massed groups of employees. This change has resulted not from an unawareness of the oral medium, but from the realization that employees were interested in the plant and its policies and how it might affect their jobs, etc. As a generality, I think it could be said that ost businesses were slow in recognizing this fact. This also might more accurately be thought of as an outgrowth of the

¹McCormick, Charles P., The Power of People, (Harper & Bros: N.Y. & London), 1949, p. 7.

Bryson, Lyman, The Communication of Ideas, (Harper & Bros: N.Y. & London), 1948, p. 171.

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change in communication systems. As soon as the attempt to convert the one-way system to a two-way system was made, information previously blocked came to the attention of the top executives.

These executives are the people who must establish the system and see that it works. There are, of course, other reasons such as the trend in changes in ownership of large corporations, unions, etc. but such is outside the province of this report.

Oral methods of communication are effective because they satisfy basic desires for recognition, participation, and self-realization by direct personal contacts between management and employees and between various levels of management. Conversation can foster understanding, thus eliminating much of the mystery which interferes with production and job satisfaction.

when the need arises, the Division Officer must be able to interpret correctly or explain any written communication to those subordinate to him. The oral explanation is best. All authors and Industrial Relations Specialists are in agreement on this point.

Oral communication is the preferred means of communication in business. Contrasted with written communication it is faster, easier, more personal, and often more economical.... No function of business is accomplished without being furthered by oral co. munication - whether it be finance, purchasing, manufacturing, distribution, accounting, personnel or administration. No group of persons or individuals in an organization are untouched by oral communication - whether they be employee, supervisory, management, or administrative personnel. Oral communications must be used in personal or group relations with employees, with customers, with stockholders, with the government, with the public, and with local, state, and national business and trade associations. Oral communication holds first place, it is preferred always where its use is economical and where the written record is not essential.2

Peters, Raymond W., Communications Within Industry, (Harper & Bros: N.Y.), 1949, p. 78.

²Marston, Everett C., Thompson, Loring M., and Zacher, Frank, Business Communication, (Macmillan Co., N.Y.), 1949, p. 367.

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In presenting information either orally or in writing, the Division Officer should comply with the principles of Brevity, Conciseness, Clarity, and, of course, Be Factual. This seems rather obvious, but these principles are easily violated. Clarity may be sacrificed by being too brief; conciseness may result in incompleteness; questions may be discouraged by too strict adherence to these principles, and this might be interpreted by foremen as indicating a perfunctory attitude by the Division Officer; omissions of pertinent facts may result from attempting to be too brief, etc. On the otherhand, an oral communication which presents all the facts in a brief, clear, calm, and pleasant manner and in simple terms which the listeners can comprehend is as "surefire" as any communications medium can be. It stimulates thinking which leads to the creation of new ideas.

Like other aspects of administration, communications must be planned too. The Division Officer will have satisfied virtually every principle of communication if in presenting it he has furnished the correct answers to Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? The mental processes involved will become practically automatic in these as the individual gains experience on the job. This is not happenstance, however. It is the result of planning, planning, and more planning! Knowledge and experience gained from associations with people on the job can be very stimulating; and if the Division Officer has failed to answer any one of the six little questions, his alert foremen will probably remind him of it. The power of the question, as mentioned previously, is obvious to the planner.

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the planned too. The Division Officer will here withfind eight of the planned too. The Division of the planned too. The Division of the planned too. The Division of the planned too will be presented to the planned to

Rudyard Kipling once stated:

I have six honest serving-men (They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When And How and Where and Who.

Also, there is a passage somewhere in the Bible to the effect that "Iron sharpeneth iron." The Division Officer, when in his dealings with others, and particularly his subordinates, can stimulate them to cross swords with him in an exchange of ideas and make them feel as free to refer information up as he is in referring it (and instructions) down will surely have accomplished is goal of two-way communications between the Division and Section levels. The remaining areas with which the Division Officer must concern himself are upward and lateral communications. In general, the same procedures apply regardless of the direction of the communication, but one general rule in upward communication is that of more summary presentation. The Department Head has greater responsibilities and more complex problems than the Division Officer has; hence, the upward communication will more frequently assume the character of a written report. There will probably be an established report system as part of the communication network. "The distinctive thing about an established report system is that it specifies who is to make out the report, what information is to be included, when it should be prepared and to whom it should be sent."1 Again, one may note the little questions.

Lateral communications at the Division level assume a greater degree of formality than at the lower levels. Often, one

Newman, William H., Administrative Action, (Prentice -Hall, Inc: New York), 1951, p. 397.

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may note on organization charts where top management has honored such relationships at the Division and Department levels with the "broken-line" denoting coordination. Lateral communications at Division and higher levels are less "grapevine" in nature.

The Division Officer, as well as all others, should constantly keep in mind the fact that it can be shown that "Communications" is only ten-fourteenths of "Human Relations", but "Human Relations" is eleven-fourteenths of "Communications." (Cancel out letters common to each and prove it to yourself.) Therein is the key to effective communications.

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CHAPTER IV

DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS

In this chapter, I will consider communications for Department and higher levels as an entity. I realize that this is rather sparse coverage but much of the same comment regarding communications would be pertinent to the "top management" level also. Communications, particularly at this level, needs to be analyzed in relation to the <u>purpose</u> of the business. It is reasonable to assume that the principal purpose of most businesses is to produce profits.

Along with other pursuits of business, the purpose of communications is to produce profits. Without profits, no business can either satisfy its owners or endure. So it is easy to understand why managements direct their attention primarily to profits and only secondarily to the people who produce those earnings. This focus on money values in daily activities tends to dehumanize communication and thus to blunt its effectiveness.

There are some striking examples of businesses which have enhanced their profits when communications were more "humanized." Lincoln Electric Company and McCormick and Company are perhaps the outstanding examples. Even so, enough other evidence is available to present a strong case in proving the comment above. The Department Head and higher executives whould therefore consider that one of their important duties (if not the most important) is to enhance the effectiveness of plant communication. This is the wedge which will remove obstacles to two-way communications; the top executives must have a sincere desire to

Bryson, op cit., p. 143.

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largeon, on cir., p. 145.

improve the sommunication system.

This is best accomplished by recognizing that the employees are people who spend about one-third of their lives in the plant. More time is spent there than with their families if time in bed is ignored. They deserve more consideration than they often get. The matters which will affect the workers will, inescapably, affect the plant too, Hence, management must inform the workers on matters which will affect them, rather than let them learn for themselves. Management must be honget in passing this information along. The remark of Abraham Linclon that you can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time, is applicable here. Even a slight indication of dishonest intent or misrepresentation or poor faith in top executive communications will result in destroying or negating all the coordination or cooperativeness which the Division and lower levels may have created through their communications effectiveness.

It is imperative, then, that Department and higher levels foster and encourage devices which improve communications. The physical actions of management can be a valuable means toward this end. For instance, the President of Monsanto Chemical Company was in Texas City, Texas within hours of that disaster. His presence there and the assurances given to the employees of that branch plant and his sincere expressions of sympathy to the anguished and bereaved workers' families created more goodwill than could possibly be measured. He could have remained in the home office and

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sunt messages saying the same identical things as he said at the scene of the disaster but the effectiveness would not have been nearly so great. His presence at the scene, in part, accounted for this difference. Thus, the setting or the environment in which communications take place has a bearing on their effectiveness. An alert management will not only pay attention to what is communicated, but the time, place, and manner as well. I do not know personally as I haven't researched the matter, but I dare say that the climate for the personal appearance of the president of the company had been slowly established as a result of past trips even though under different circumstances. The past contributed to the present. A communication is like a link in a chain. What may appear to be a separate thing is in reality connected to what has transpired in the past and conditions, to some extent, what may transpire in the future. This is basic. It is simply an extension of the continuity of communications.

I believe that trips by top executives are good communicators, if properly used. The "tour" does not need to be a formal inspection type of procedure and is apt to be better if it isn't. The workers often assume that the "Big Boss" has a "what's wrong" attitude when he makes a formal inspection. A tour with sincere complementary remarks to the deserving parties is both good human relations and plant communications. Criticize in private but praise in public is sound communications. The Production Department Head who says to the foreman within sight and sound of the workers that the customers were especially well pleased with the last run

one or name or an execute deployment area and increa authorize June ment were the other sengerifolding and the referent but to specie Asserts ad great, the processes in her seven, in ear, assemble tor tale difference. That, the middles or has northwester in chick communications take place on a wear to whether the communication some was of drawn of motivative year glos you iffer june garner justs antal, out the time, place, and denor is all sub bases I have I I me to the commence of the village and will be danking on the sungrey of the area out and established with the To stores on mentalines and profession of the proposed even though under different cheese you can, the plan appear neven to the present, to thioreton in the stant and another to a treatment sen and an assert to relieve to realist of sentent of any or of the prothe last product of the dead of the best particulary transpire to the factor, this to wealth, it is seen at

 of thing-a-majigs from their shop is creating a good communications climate. Again, we see the benefits of oral communication. What would have been the effect if he had publicly blamed or criticized when the customer expressed displeasure of the product?

Walter P. Chrysler was one of the nation's great industrialists and he was an advocate of speaking personally to people whenever possible. He did not forget that he was once a worker in overalls himself. Here is a conversation between Mr. Chrysler and a window cleaner when Mr. Chrysler and the collaborator of his autobiography, Mr. Sparkes, made a sudden reappearance in Chrysler's private office high up in the Chrysler building.1

This one (window cleaner) was sullen faced as he hastily gathered up his bucket, squeegee, and chamois cloth. Then Mr. Chrysler spoke to him.

"What's your hurry, Son?"

"You're busy. I'm getting out."

"Son, you don't have to get out. Get paid by the window, don't you?"

Wonn't I bother you, Mr. Chrysler?"

"No, and if I am bothering you, I'll use another room until you're finished."

When the window panes were clean and the man had vanished, Mr. Chrysler made a somewhat cryptic remark. "I've been a nut about that for years."

"What?" (Mr. Sparkes)

"Taking pains to make any workman I come across know that I don't think I'm better than he is. Unless I do, he will. Watch me leave here some night. I find things to say. 'It's a bad day' or 'Kind of cold out' or something. I speak coming and I speak going. If the young man at the information desk on the ground floor has his

¹Chrysler, Walter P., Life of An American workman, in collaboration with Boyden Sparkes, (Dodd, Meed and Company: New York), 1950, p. 214.

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back turned, I make a point of it; he's got to speak to me. I say, 'Good night, Son.'"

walter Chrysler was an individualist. He worked hard and expected those whom he supervised to work hard, but he was a keen student of human nature as well. This study taught him patience, something he lacked in early life. Early in his journeyman machinist career he stated, "...in the shops I was learning more and more; I learned something from every good mechanic with whom I worked; I learned the workings of a variety of engines; I learned shop practices; but most important, I learned a lot about men, and still more about Walter Chrysler."

Top executives in establishing a communications system or in improving an existing system might very appropriately be guided by some of the pitfalls or shortcomings of employeremployee communications. Here is one such listing.²

The Company's communications program was built on a one-way basis.

The Company's program was unrealistic.

The Company's program was erratic and synthetic.

The program was not geared to a change of conditions.

The program lacked personalization.

The strike program within management lacked direction.

And here are the suggestions for improvement as listed:

- Get your communications basically on a man-to-man basis.
- 2. Find out what employees want to know. Find out what's bothering them.
- Put your communications devices to work on your problems.
- 4. Be sure the person who directs your communications can direct them under fire.
- 5. In time of labor peace, study the communications devices available to you during a strike.

lIcid., p. 68.

^{2&}quot;The Collapse of Communications," The Management Review,
American Management Association, July, 1952, p. 424.

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A review of the shortcomings indicates also that sincerity, flexiblity, continuity, and planning were lacking. Top men gement (Dept. Heads and higher) has a wealth of material and effective communications media which they may use. There are "staff" channels which may be utilized. If management has an important message for the employees, the various media at their ddsposal should be studied and the best one (or better ones) selected. Plant newspapers, bulletin boards, financial statements, employees handbook or manual, employees induction training program, safety program, radio and press, group conferences or mass meetings with workers, recreation facilities, library, cafeteria, credit union are a few examples of media. Initially, the selection of proper media may be a bit of a trial-and-error process. This can be quickly improved by analyzing results of surveys, or executive conference discussion, etc. One method which might be used would be for the particular department that is preparing information to test it on another department. For example, the Accounting Department may intend to express in laymen's language an analysis of the company's financial position. The Accounting Department Head could with the Production Department Head's permission "try it" on one of the Division Officers in the Production Department. His reaction might su gest improvements. Also, a decision arrived at as a result of informal conferences may determine which media to use.

One will find that many of the communications at the top level are written. The content of many communications at this level will be in the nature of policy statements. I am assuming that

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management intends to disseminate such information. Statements of policy remaining buried in the minutes of committee meetings do nothing to aid the worker in understanding the company's intent. If workers will be affected, the policies should be explained to them. Inasmuch as written material is extensively used at this level, it follows that any steps by which management could improve its ability of expression in writing would assist the communications flow. A readable, personal letter can work wonders at an appropriate time and place. An example of good timing would be as soon as a shop or section completes an accident-free year of work, write a personal congratulatory letter to each person involved.

The employee manual or handbook is very good for new employees. It can set them straight at the beginning. It should be carefully prepared.

Four general rules seem to be almost universally sound in writing an employee indoctrination booklet: (1) Be exact, frank and fair in every word; (2) write in simple, understandable language without condescension; (3) make it interesting and persuasive without special pleading so that the employee has a natural tendency to take pride in his company and his product and his service; (4) put far more do's than don'ts in such a booklet. It is easy to get over the message as to what must be done without a verboten stmosphere in a single para raph. Accomplishing that objective is perhaps the most important test of the validity of such a booklet.

Throughout this report the aspects of coordination and cooperativeness have been stressed and, at times, used almost synonmously with communications. This near synonmity is not too far amiss as evidenced by Newman: "Since coordination is concerned

Griswold, Glen and Griswold, Denny, Your Public Relations, the standard public relations handbook, (Funk and Wagnalls Co: New York), 1948, p. 556.

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Commander Co. New York, 1000, p. 200.

with the interrelationships of separate activities, it can be no better than the transfer of information about these activities to some common point or points, where the dovetailing takes place. Part of this transfer can come through informal contacts: but the big bulk of it should come through formal means of com unications. Hence, the executive who is seeking to improve coordination should make sure that there is a free and prompt flow of pertinent operating data throughout the enterprice. Care should be taken in designing the various forms and reports used, since an overelaborate system will not only add to expense, but may defeat the very purpose of providing the right date to the right man at the right time." The lesson here should be obvious to top management. In further discussing voluntary coordination, Newman lists the following as aids: "Instill dominant objectives ... Develop generally accepted customs and terms Encourage informal contacts.... Provide liaison men where needed.... Use committees...."2

Department Heads and higher executives have a very good means of improving communications through their executive development programs. A natural result of improving executive and leadership abilities of division and section heads will be an improvement in the communications system. Top management could, I believe, perform a service if they required all executives and particularly foreman and division officers to do some required reading of books and a ticles on leadership, how to conduct conferences, principles of supervision, and other related subjects.

lnewman, op cit., p. 398.

²Ibid., pp. 398-402.

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² or on, or ele., p. 600.

The mechanical media of communications should not be ignored. I have not given them much attention, intentionally so, in this report. The person who can speak well face-to-face can generally perform equally well over the telephone, "squawk box", dictephone, etc. Mimeographs and hectographs, etc., are devices for mass producing the written material. Thus, if an executive can speak and write effectively it follows that the mechanical devices are merely extensions of such abilities. These extensions may need to be used extensively to speed up and perfect the flow of communications. Plant sponsored public speaking and writing technique courses may be used to improve executive leadership. In any event, the executive who must prepare written communications should have a knowledge of a few principles which assure clarity in writing. One such list includes the following. 1

- 1. Keep sentencesaverage short, twenty words or less.
- 2. Keep sentences variable in length.
- Prefer the simple to the complex.
 Prefer the familiar to the farfetched.
- 5. Keep verbs active.
- 6. Avoid unnecessary words.
- 7. Use terms your reader can picture.
- 8. Relate to your reader's experience.
- 9. Write as you talk.
- 10. Write to EXpress rather than to IMpress.

It is, I believe, generally agreed that it is more difficult to obtain the same understanding in writing as in conversation, but it can be done and the executive should develop that ability.

> In training yourself to write good letters, you'll have to be practical. You won't succeed the first day or the first month; but your letters will begin to improve im-

Peters, op cit., p. 149.

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mediat Ney. You may have to rewrite the more important letters, if you find they are too wordy or amen't clear. Some letters you may send along, even if they aren't perfect. But don't forget: Every letter is an important personal contact; there is no unimportant letter. If it's not important, don't write it.1

Top management should have several devices at its disposal through which analylitical studies of communications can be made. Examples would be a suggestion program, employee questionaires, surveys of various kinds and statistical analyses. Careful study of these analyses can lead to improvement in communications at their origin. The questioning attitude, as noted throughout this report, must still be utilized at the Department and higher levels. A critical analysis will question.

A convenient way to describe an act of communication is to answer the following questions:2

Who Says what In which channel To whom With what effect? (Control analysis) (Content analysis) (Media analysis) (Audience analysis) (Effect analysis)

Top management should realize that leadership is not a constant thing, by that I mean that leadership is fluid; in different situations, different executives will exert different influences. These influences vary according to the characteristics of the interrelations between executives or between executives and workers. The Production Department Head may exert more leadership in some situations; in others, it may be the Personnel, or Controller, or Sales Department, etc. The fine line of decision should take into account the coordinating, in the most compatible

¹Kienzle and Dare, op cit., p. 193.

²Bryson, op cit., p. 37.

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fashion, of the various influences. This isn't too difficult as good leaders will support each other. Loyalty is fostered when communications originate which have the backing of all department heads. This loyalty will in turn permeate the entire organization and unite all elements in the fulfillment of the purposes of the enterprise. That appears to be a Utopian statement, but I am convinced that it is nevertheless a sound one. "Faint heart never won Mair maiden" is perhaps a trite expression, but the implications apply equally as well to communications. Any executive, no matter where located in the managerial hierarchy, who portrays any weaknesses in supporting management policies creates a breach in the dikes which contain the communications stream.

Lateral communications at Department and higher levels reaches its most effective form in committees and conference methods. Written records (minutes) are maintained and the conclusions reached are injected into the downward flow of communications. Of course, some screening may be done if it is contrary to plant or public interest, i.e. secret research work, product design and development. Department heads particularly should be on the alert for upward communications; if after a lapse of a reasonable time there is no response to downward communications, it should serve as a warning flag. An investigation should be conducted to determine where the breakdown or boltheneck exists. Top management, by their elertness, will engender similar alertness at lower levels.

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CHAPTER V

SUMMARY

"Communications is the mighty river on the banks of which business lefe is built." We have seen that communications is a constant thing. Nevertheless, it is not a static but rather a dynamic force. In analogy, it can be compared to its "stream" counterpart. When flowing serenely within its banks it can serve the good purposes of creating goodwill, generating understanding, and fulfilling the plant goals; but clogging the stream or creating turbulence will restrict the flow or muddy the water. Either is bad but a restricted flow is probably the greater of the two evils as the water level will rase until an outlet is found. In other words, a poor two-way communications system is better, in my opinion, than a rigid one-way system. Steps to improve the former would probably obtain greater results more quickly than the same steps when used on the latter.

Communications is in large measure the element which makes human relations workable. The great interest which business has taken and is currently taking to improve their human relations is of fairly recent origin. A glance at the bibliography to this report reveals that, with but one or two exceptions, 1943 is the earliest date of references used. Also, the titles to the bibliographic material are somewhat suggestive as to the different areas in which communications are considered important. Leadership,

lpeters, op cit., p. 41.

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Salesmanship, Administration, Management, Human Relations, Public Relations, etc. collectively and separately rely on communication for effective implementation. This is so because of the fact that people are involved. People must communicate and if the plant doesn't provide the channels, the people in the plant will create their own. Intra-plant communications is a two-way system and involves human understanding. The leader or executive who has a good knowledge of human understanding will have good communications with them. He will realize that people differ; he will vary his approach accordingly; and he will accomplish his purposes because all persons long for understanding. History is replete with examples of great leaders; and followers follow the man who understands them. Leaders need followers, otherwise they are not leaders. One definition of a leader could easily be something similar to the following: A leader is an individual who can get others to want to do what he wants done, when he wants it done, and in the manner in which he wants it done. This ability obviously requires some form of expression; the art of expression is communications. Reg rd ess of one's position in the plant, whether foreman or Department Head, nothing which enyone else within the plant can say or do will have as much effect on the people an individual works with as what the individual himself says or does. The President of the Company may make some statement regarding company affairs, but it will not mean as much to the workers at the benches or lathes or on the assembly lines as the same stabbeent would

allows page 12 120 months, assessment, as the man page 1 months and the Relations, sie, solies with an assessment of the confidence of the confidence of for effective that contain a mineral or as uncontained or too too too sound are trivolved, reading only communicate and the rest of the results normally provide the obtained with the second of advers streets the street of th "Avolvas measu anterestantine, "he in her or remnant on one within a to the state of the st blong with them, so till continue will proper tillers be mad upon mandates and subliquings from an age; than broom deserving all bedrage at trouble .anthogrammon tot that another its propose of the said - 1100 by of it has personed debts to believe the bute-steads late, landers cond for weers, correctes they are not ready out these so places have taken of to continue and interest by the religious a larger to an indication of the or year. to de the contract down at page , and take of the co of inthe new attention of the complete the state of the state of some form of properties, the new of properties to broad accession. and the same of th herert ent mend, nothing saids sortes all the time that one imposited an obsess out no dwyste where an even till office one -tern and according to the time to the property and the condition of the Company of the same of the sam added the first or the second of the second of the first out or the placed interests have not be small placed into an an addition

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certain people or segments within a plant should be communicated, whenever possible, to those people by their immediate supervisors in the organizational hierarchy. This is a direct and usually face-to-face approach. It prevents distortions and rumors. It provides more pure food for the grapevine. The grapevine can be controlled to a considerable extent. However, a work of caution about the grapevine is appropos here. All grapevines are informal means of communication, but not all informal means of communication are grapevines. The grapevine is a powerful communication are grapevines of a "rumor clinic." The prevalence of rumors often indicates a bottleneck or breakdown of formal communications. Even though informal contacts are, generally, to be encouraged, they must be controlled.

There is not any substitute for the face-to-face, two-way system of communications. It is effective. It is usually more economical. It is quick and easy in execution. It permits "fixing" of intent or purpose, as the sender can make sure the receiver understands it thoroughly. It is my belief that any good communications system must be built around the face-to-face medium and the greater reliance upon it the better. A good two-way system promotes the give-and-take relationship. Neither side can be right at all times and compromises have to be made. The fact that compromise and changes can be made gracefully by both sides is indicative of high morale.

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Morale grows out of the conditions in which the members of a group live and work. It is affected by their associations with each other, by their physical surroundings, and by their relations with other supervisors. It is a condition which may be strengthened or destroyed by contacts, policies, and leadership at any level in the organization. A low morale at any level of the organization would inevitably be reflected in a low morale of the workers. Morale reaches the lower levels of the organization by seeping down from above; it does not rise from the ranks to influence the leadership.

The two-way system of communications which has its primary reliance on face-to-face conversation can lead to the "strong" condition which generates good morale, and the seeping process, as mentioned by Dr. Owens, can become a regular flow through improvements in all areas of employer-employee relationships, physical surroundings on and off the job, "fringe" benefits, and a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. This two-way mutual understanding is more quickly reached when the leaders have a basic knowledge of the desires of the workers and various factors which stimulate the workers. Executives should study the fundamentals of elementary psychology. There are many psychological factors which can promote communications over and above those basic stimuli which motivate individuals. Soft music piped throughout the plant, "irenic" green conference rooms, sound-proofing or sound-deadening where fe sible, "honor" systems, heavy layers of felt on conference tables to discourage "fist-bangers", etc. are a few examples.

Communications must be based on facts. Facts can only be obtained by hearing both sides of any matter. At the very least, every board has two sides. One suggestion, as mentioned before,

Owens, Richard N., Management of Industrial Enterprises, (Richard D. Irwin, Inc: Homewood, Illinois), 1953, p. 103.

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in obtaining facts is to listen to what the employee has to say.

A person never learns by talking. He only repeats that which he has previously learned. You learn by listening. The executive when listening to an employee's side of a story should make sure he has all of the story. The employee will be encouraged to tell all if he has an attentive listener. Often, a grievance which an employee thought he had vanishes when he can use the "safety valve" of talking to let off steam. The employee will tend to discuss future problems more freely with the supervisor who has the ability to listen. Listening is therefore an important communications device. There are other "silent" communications devices which may be effective when properly used. A nod of the head, a pleasant smile, shrug of the shoulders, and various other gestures may speak louder than words and thus convey our thoughts or desires more forcefully than speech.

Sincerity should be a beacon within a plant. It promotes human understanding. Management must not be afraid to admit mistakes when it makes them, and mistakes will occur as nothing can be perfect. Sincerity will permit a closer approach to perfection, and as this road is travelled many mistakes and problems can be prevented. One of the best ways of handking problems is to prevent them. In this respect, problems are like fires. Preventing them is better than coping with them after they have started. Also, like fires, problems are nearly all the same size (small) at the time of their inception. Often, it is the little things that are

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really wrong when it seems that everything is going wrong. Keeping the ear tuned to the upward communications can detect many of these minor ailments and remedial action can be instituted before a problem develops or, if developed, before it can spread. When a problem does occur, a sincere management will meet it squarely and promptly. This will assist in "winning" employees toward management's side. Fair and prompt action must have a communications medium for its transmission.

A questioning attitude is a valuable communications device. Tactful questioning is a valuable aid in obtaining facts upon which to base decisions. Such decisions are generally more sound than decisions obtained on "voluntary" information. Skillful questioning can elicit information which the giver may think is voluntary but which he might not have told otherwise. Questions keep the communications channels free. Through questions management determines what the workers want to know. Then after informing the workers on these matters, the second and succeeding cyclye will be more easily accomplished. Thus, questions perpetuate communications and secure understanding. The questions asked must not result in any loss of the pride and dignity of an employee. They must be carefully phrased. Even though personalities of different people are involved, the questions must not become personal affairs between management and the worker, or employer and employee.

Top executives should, from time to time, see how the other half lives. An occasional appearance among the shops can be

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stimulating to both employer and employee. It does, I believe, develop confidence particularly where the appearances do not result in any criticism from the executives. General Eisenhower, in his <u>Crusade in Europe</u>, has the following to say on this subject: "I knew, of course, that news of a visit with even a few men in a division would soon spread throughout the unit. This, I felt, would encourage men to talk to their superiors, and this habit, I believe, promotes efficiency. There is, among the mass of individuals who carry rifles in war, a great amount of ingenuity and initiative. If men can naturally and without restraint talk to their officers, the products of their resourcefulness become available to all. Moreover, out of the habit grows mutual confidence, a feeling of partnership that is the essence of <u>esprit decorps</u>. An Army fearful of its officers is never as good as one that trusts and confides in its leaders."

Finally, the entire art of leadership is in very close alliance with communications. Cooperativeness, like communications, requires two or more individuals. Individuals differ, but from these differences comes strength and unity of purpose when, through good communications, the differences are channelled toward the correct goals. The sesame to good communications is in individual relationships. An understanding of human beings, their strength and weaknesses, is the cornerstone of any good communications structure. This understanding is best developed by means of manto-man talks. Communications is a continuous, dynamic force. It

¹Eisenhower, Dwight D., Crusade in Europe, (Doubleday and Co., Inc: New York), 1948, p. 314.

attend wing to both modeyer and enderer. In dans, I cellere, develor confidence project river the major in the one year in the Grande in turnes, has the relicate as one or this carto the first arm first are and the transfer to the first I . slow . Jene sale Jene correct barrens noon bloc nor iv to e ni non relt, well encourage and to talk to seeir angelens, on the nebit, I relieve, promotes with clancy. We are is, secure to eas of individu la shi cerry ring a dr. a great mones of a salit at a minimizer from in an efficient noon must be a visited by because accompliant was right to accomp and amount of and -bilded I make the state of the later of the of eladiove ence, e feering of partnership that it the case of a partnership corps. an it y fourful of tem office of the more as one the state of all and the state of the state

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must not be permitted to lapse. The "stream" must have a constant flow, fed by fresh, clear sources. Trivia has no place in such a stream.

It is a bit difficult to segregate communications into different levels or strata as has been attempted in this report. Matters affecting any part of the system do, in reality, affect the whole. An alert management uses a good system as a sort of self-restorative device to correct any ills in the system itself. This is possible because of the freedom and speed with which diagnosos can be made and treatment prescribed. A nut shell summary of this report is that an executive or part of management, at whatever level, should:

- (A) Arouse workers' interests
- (B) Appeal to their desires

(C) Be fair and just

(D) Be honest and sincere

(E) Know his own job

- (F) Know and develop leadership characteristics
 (G) Use oral communications to greatest extent possible
- (H) Listen, but have an inquisitive mind; ask questions.

Then, he will be far along the road toward establishing a good intra-plant communications system. A good system, once established, may easily be perpetuated as long as the factor of human understanding is kept uppermost in mind.

A very wise man once proclaimed an admonition which can easily apply to any organization's communication system. King Solomon said, "and with all thy getting, get understanding."

Holy Bible, King James version, Proverbs, 4:7.

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